

Croll's Gardens Pass Away; Was Popular Training Camp

Most Famous Boxers in History of Pugilism Prepared Themselves for Battle in Choice Spot "Across the Bay."

By W. W. NAUGHTON.
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 28.—Who has not heard of Croll's Gardens, Alameda, in its day the most popular training camp for pugilists within a score of miles of San Francisco?

The place referred to had vogue, however, before it was known as Croll's. It was called Neptune Gardens thirty years ago, and it was a favorite Sunday lounging place for people from the San Francisco side of the bay.

There were skating rinks, shooting galleries, dancing pavilions, and what not attached to it in those years and the least of its attractions was the ice-cold beer that was drawn in steins from a thousand kegs.

The Alameda folks resented the idea of catering to San Francisco's Sunday thirst and love of frivolousity and Neptune Gardens were doomed.

Down through the years the buildings and the fountains and the statuary disappeared piece-meal and Croll took hold just in time to save a few stable and a garage structure, all peaks and angles, known as the Wigwam.

Revives Old Memories.
A few days ago, a crew of carpenters was busy dismantling the Wigwam and when the building sports head of the fact, pugilistic memories of the long ago were revived. Why, the fight fans of several generations have crowded into that Wigwam from time to time to watch champion ring men prepare themselves for ring battles that are famous in the history of the game.

By the same token, many of the stars of the boxing arena who trained in the Wigwam have passed to the beyond. Let me recall a few names: Jack Dempsey, Tommy Warren, Paddy Duffy, Peter Jackson, Joe Gans and Joe Dixon.

The writer was one of those who had old recollections called up by the passing of the Wigwam. I saw Tommy Ryan train for his match with Jack Hamilton at Boston, at the California Athletic club, a good quarter of a century ago.

Having, I remember, had trouble with his weight. He was a protégé of Tom O'Rourke, and it was necessary to keep him in the Turkish baths for several hours on the day of the bout. Poor Jack had nothing left but his pluck when he took the scratch and that did not save him from a merciless prodding.

Duffy and Meadows.
Just as far back in the abyss of time I saw Paddy Duffy of Boston train for a go with Tom Meadows of Australia, one of the best welters the world ever saw.

Meadows was a peculiar fellow. He knew a boxing game as a billiard champion knows a green table, but there were cooies of things he didn't know. He had to make weight for Duffy and he decided the best way to accelerate reduction was to starve himself.

One day over at Joe Dietz's, where he trained, he boasted that all he had eaten in twenty-four hours was an apple.

"You'll be weak," someone remarked. "Don't you believe it," he answered. "If I can only make the weight, I'll kick him sure."

The apple diet did for Meadows, who, after a few rounds was too feeble to keep his arms up. Both Meadows and Duffy are dead now.

I saw Mike Conley, the Ithaca giant, train at Croll's for his match with Jim McLaughlin and I saw Peter Jackson train there for his bout with Jim Jeffries. Jackson was on the down grade then, although he was still as proud as Lucifer and resented any suggestion that he was scarcely the Peter of old.

Peter Jackson Indignant.
At setting time up at the Olympic club, Gene Vancorick, a fiery Jeffries grabbed Peter's hand and said: "Peter, Jeff told me to give you his best and tell you not to be downcast."

Jeffries snorted. "You tell Jeffries to mind himself," he retorted. "Just let him give me a return match and he will be the one that will be downcast."

I saw Jim Corbett train at the old Wigwam for his San Francisco match with Jeffries. Jim, after his Masphen experience with Jeffries, figured that what he needed most of all successfully to cope with the "boiler-maker" was weight and muscle.

Corbett's Training Methods.
At Croll's he had his exercise room fitted up like a professional strong man's den. There were giant lifting bars and big weights and all the rest of it, but they did not help Jim.

The funny part of it is that while Corbett was training for his Jeffries fight, he was training for another. At Jeff's training quarters, when the fight was near, he said to the writer: "I want you to watch closely and tell me honestly if I look Corbett."

Coming away from the ring he stopped at the press benches and said to me: "Well, did I?"

"You certainly did," I answered. "It was at the Wigwam that Joe Walcott trained when they had to keep him in the boiler room of the ferry boat coming across the day of the fight. This was Tom O'Rourke's scheme for removing a reluctant pound of weight and saving his fight."

Bob Fitzsimmons trained there for his match with Jeffries, and Joe Gans trained there for several matches. George Dixon, Abe Attell, Tommy Ryan, Hugo Kelly and an army of pugilists whose names I cannot just now recall also pitched camp there.

And now all that remains of the Wigwam are the stump of a chimney and a few splinters of wood painted red and green and yellow.

GILMORE TELLS OF STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

(Continued from Preceding Page.)

and back the league to the limit of my bankroll.

Then I jumped over to St. Louis and talked with Otto Stiefel, the millionaire brewer, who, like Weegman, was an ardent fan, and who had yearnings to become a magnate.

I outlined my plans for the Federal league, told him what I expected to do and then, as a clincher, I told him that Weegman was "in" with me. That decided Stiefel, and he agreed to take the St. Louis franchise.

From there I jumped to Kansas City, and when it was learned there that such good business men as Stiefel and Weegman thought the Federal proposition good enough to invest in, I had a little trouble interesting sufficient capital there. It was the same in Indianapolis and in Baltimore.

The interesting of capital in Buffalo and Pittsburgh was not such an easy matter, but finally it was accomplished. There remained but one more club to complete our circuit and, listening to the pleas of certain interests in Toronto, I decided to award a franchise to that city.

But I made that decision only because it seemed that I would fail in my plans to put a team in Greater New York. I had procured an option of grounds both in Brooklyn and New York City, but I couldn't get the necessary backing.

Toronto Franchise.
The latter part of January I went to Toronto in an effort to straighten out affairs there. I didn't like the Toronto situation, but the time for the opening of the season was drawing near and it seemed to be Toronto or nothing.

While I was in Toronto, and just at a time when it seemed that the Toronto situation was hopeless, and I was feeling mighty blue about the matter, I was introduced to a mutual friend to Robert B. Ward, the New York baker.

We got to discussing baseball, and I told Ward how anxious I was to get into Greater New York with a team, although it never dawned on me at that time that Ward would come in with us.

The next day when I met Ward he almost dazed me by saying: "Mr. Gilmore, I'll go into the Federal league with you. I'll back a team in Greater New York."

Gets Brooklyn Ground.
Well, you might know how delighted I was. I raced back to Chicago, took care of a few details from that end, and then hustled to New York, where I again met Mr. Ward. The option I had on the old Brooklyn park was almost up, but we hustled matters through and exercised that option just a few hours ahead of its expiring time. That's the history of how capital was raised.

The 1914 season will be our first season as a major league organization. But we'll show that we have the goods. And when the 1915 season comes around the fans will find that we will have the money stars in our ranks as the American and National leagues.

We'll get the players whose contracts expire at the end of the 1914 season because we'll outbid the organized people.

Has Been Jolly Fight.
The past two months have been mighty strenuous for all those concerned in the fight of the Federals. But it has furnished us a lot of fun and pleasure, and we're mighty glad we got into it. This is the first real big business fight of my life, and I find that I like fighting. And so I'll keep it up.

We are not anxious about going into organized baseball. We can stand out alone and win and make money. So what's the advantage of becoming business associates with one's enemies?

I might say that Mrs. Gilmore isn't as keen about this Federal league as I am. Since I took charge of the team, she has been compelled to make three trips to New York, three to Toronto, one to Pittsburgh, two to Kansas City, one to St. Louis and two to Buffalo.

Most of my time while in Chicago has been spent in my office holding conferences. So, you see, I have had little chance to be at home with Mrs. Gilmore.

Looking at Gilmore's physique one gets the impression that he would have made a rattling good "white hope" and he chosen the ring for his field of endeavor. He's something over six feet tall, weighs around 195 and seems to be made up of bone, muscle and energy.

Yet, looking only at his face, he presents a ministerial appearance. The lines of his smooth face are almost boyish; his eyes are kindly and gentle, and he wears spectacles that further soften his looks and almost make one lose sight of his powerful jaw.

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BIKERS AND SKATERS WILL RACE TUESDAY

While Schatz, champion roller skater of the intercontinental circuit, will try to beat "Musty" Froehs in a half-mile match race next Tuesday night at Murray, skaters will race on a mile race next Wednesday night at a mile race.

In a previous race of the kind, Howard from Morris after skating three miles, Carl ring record, held by Ed Oates of Murray, made last Wednesday in 2:13. George Allen and Ed Oates will meet in a mile match race next Tuesday.

Feds' Training Plans.
Manager Stovall of the Kansas City Feds has selected Wichita Falls, Tex., as training site for his outfit. While Manager Otto Knabe of the Baltimore "outlaws" is going to Southern Pines, N. C. for spring training.

Fans Appreciate Monday Night Cards; Extensive Programme Tomorrow.

The popularity of the four-round boxing game in this city is growing every day and if Manager Downing continues to give the fans the high-class contests that he has been dealing out to them for the past three months the card will take a bold on the fans that will keep this popular sport going for some time to come.

The weary show of the Manhattan club played to a capacity house at the Garrick theater last Monday night and as the card for tomorrow night looks to be every bit as good as any that has been shown there is every reason to expect another good house at this show.

The fans have shown by the patronage that they appreciate the kind of contests they have witnessed and as time goes on the boys are improving and consequently the bouts are getting better and better. Ninety per cent of the boys who regularly go to Manning and boys who have been here and there for some time and are boys of good habits. They have employment and take on boxing as a side issue and do their training after working hours.

The great deal of the popularity of the game is now enjoying to no doubt due to this fact and the capable manner in which the contests are handled both in the ring and from the spectators' standpoint. The bouts are always started on time and the fans know that they will have to wait. At 12:30 sharp the first pair steps in the ring and from that time until the last bout is over there has never been a minute of any kind. Another bit that Downing has made with the fans is that he never allows any of the boys to take any unnecessary punishment. As soon as a boxer shows that he is the complete master of the bout he is stopped. Sometimes they are a cry from the gallery, but the majority of those present appreciate it and they are the ones who appreciate real sport and do not want to see anyone hurt. The boys so far have been exceptionally free from knockouts, for when a boy is knocked down and arises in a dazed condition his opponent is not permitted to hit him again, but is awarded the decision at once. So far the most serious injury to any of the boys has been a bloody nose, or a cut lip, or possibly a sore hand.

For tomorrow night's show Manager Downing has arranged a treat in the boxing line for those who are partial to cleverness in the four-round exhibition between Gilbert Gallant, the champion of Los Angeles, and "Young" Gilbert of the Boston Navywelds, and Pete Sullivan, at one time the cleverest lightweight that ever appeared in this part of the country. From a scientific standpoint this bout promises to be the best ever.

The rest of the card will bring three of Ogdon's best boys against some of the reliable of the Manhattan club. The three boys from Ogdon prove their worth at the recent meeting between Ogdon and the Manhattan boys, by winning their bouts in decisive manner. There is no reason, therefore, why they should not appear to as good advantage this time, but they will be pitted against better boys and will have to step faster in order to win.

Another bout that promises to be well worth seeing is the one between Frankie Harris, former champion of Los Angeles, and "Young" Gilbert of this city, the cream of the local 125-pounders. Tom Crawford and "Duke" Jackson, two of the reliable of the Manhattan club, will also be seen in action. Their mixing ability is well known.

The complete card is as follows: Gilbert Gallant vs. Peter Sullivan, four-round exhibition. Frankie Harris vs. "Young" Gilbert of the Boston Navywelds, and Pete Sullivan, at one time the cleverest lightweight that ever appeared in this part of the country. From a scientific standpoint this bout promises to be the best ever.

DAHLIN HARD MAN NO TAG AT SECOND

"In all my years of ball playing," said Johnnie Evers recently, speaking of persons with whom he had worked, "the man who has found it hardest to touch with the ball as he came down to second base from first was Bill Dahlin, until recently the manager of the Brooklyn Nationals."

"Dahlin always came straight down the baseline, directly at the base, and in the last few feet of the trip, he was sure to go right over the bag and throw a second base man to his knees. He had a great way of anticipating where the throw from the catcher was coming and he played his slide to a nicety. Coming straight along, he suddenly would fall down on his hands and knees and then use the greatest cleverness in pulling out of reach and twisting himself to hook the base with either foot."

"Bill by no means was the only man who was a hard man to slide, but he did it to a nicety. He never was a particularly dangerous man to try to block, but blocking him off never seemed to do much good. He was almost sure to get the better of the close plays around second base, and nothing was sure to go right over him when he was apparently were on the mark."

"There are other men whom I have found it difficult to 'get' at second, and among them are Hans Lobert, Charley Herzog, Campbell, Bescher, Byrne, Wagner, Miller, Rogers and Wagner. Wagner was a big mark to try to tag, but often when it came to putting the ball on him he was not there."

"There were some fine base runners on the old Chicago club, and of course I never had any experience playing defensively against them. But I do know that Frank Chance was one of the greatest base runners who ever played, and this because he so very often did the unexpected and used his head as well as his excellent speed."

Triflers have told me that Chance was the hardest man they found, to tag, and some of these were men who had played against Frank for American league teams in world's and city series. I think the book slide is the hardest for the man handling the throws to gauge."

U. S. RHODES BOYS WINNERS IN ENGLAND

LONDON, Feb. 28.—American Rhodes scholars who took part in the events in the Oxford university sports held here today, won a total of 22 gold medals.

F. A. Adams of Texas won the hammer throw, and won with a throw of 227 feet. V. H. Havens of New Jersey won the 100 yards flat; N. S. Tabor of Rhode Island won the 100 yards flat; N. S. Tabor of Rhode Island won the 100 yards flat; N. S. Tabor of Rhode Island won the 100 yards flat.

The sports will be concluded on Monday.

Promising Young Catcher.
Another catcher has been signed to join the ranks of the Yankees and is to be taken south with the rest of the Gotham squad. He is Merrill D. White, being a probable "hoped" if not the real class. He formerly played with Worcester academy.

Young Cleveland in Athletics.
BOSTON, Feb. 28.—Richard P. Cleveland, son of former President Grover Cleveland, and a student of Phillips Exeter academy, was elected president of the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of New England at the annual meeting today.

Moroy Beats Summers.
MELBOURNE, Victoria, Australia, Feb. 28.—"Black" Moroy, a middleweight pugilist today, defeated Jimmy Summers, former welterweight champion of England, on a foul in the seventh round. Summers fought unavailingly throughout the bout and struck the referee when the decision was announced.

Phil Gossett Is Worthy Successor to Ed Sweeney

PHIL GOSSETT.



DESPITE the fact that Ed Sweeney probably has jumped to the Feds, the Yankees still have a good backstop in Phil Gossett, who has sent in his signed contract. Gossett, who was practically given to the Yanks last year by the White Sox, is very weak at bat, but when Sweeney was injured and Gossett had a chance to catch he proved to be such an excellent thrower that Chance worked him in thirty-nine games.

CHANCE HAS FAITH IN HIS RECRUITS KEEN INTEREST IN BASEBALL BENEFIT

Peerless Leader Has Gathered Many Youngsters Who Give Much Promise.

Should the youngsters coming to the New York Americans the ensuing campaign compile as good a record as shown in their work the past summer, Manager Chance can easily rely on his team finishing better up in the race than it did in 1913.

In all some seventeen ball tossers were picked up by the Yankees scouts, and in this allotment were seven pitchers, and in 1913 displayed rare pitching ability on the mound. Cooper topped the batmen in averaging .360. He is also a slab artist, participating in twenty-one games, winning sixteen of them.

Knights, Williams, Maisel and McInnis were of the Yankees the latter part of last season, and from what they had shown Manager Chance intends to hold them in reserve for the time being, especially in the case of Maisel, who cost President Farrell some 12,000 iron money.

Cole, slated for a berth with the Federal league, but who jumped back to organized baseball, has a favorable record, winning twenty-three contests, and being on the short end eleven times. This gave him an average of .674, ranking fourth among recruit pitchers gathered by the Yanks.

The biggest surprise of the season will be the showing of Dode Criss, who has done a "come-back" and now is eligible to compete with the best of them on the mound. Criss is not only a pinch hitter, but also paved the way for the percentage of any Yankee recruit hurler, winning sixteen out of twenty games for an average of .800.

Gilhooley, formerly a Cardinal, was sent back for more experience, managed to swat the ball for a .328 average, and pilfered thirty-six bases. White-man, outfielder, stole a similar number, while Cook, who played for a time last season, was high man in this respect, crossing the catcher thirty-seven times.

A combined batting average of .262 was the record accomplished by the recruits who "will be" berths with Chance's Yanks, numbering 528 runs in 1913, while they ran free on the paths just 232 times, which is the type of player Manager Chance is angling for. The speed merchant is favored by the Peerless Leader, more so than the batsman.

The Texas league proved the most productive of all the minor organizations for the Yankee gunners, seven athletes coming from this branch of the national pastime—Criss, Rose, and Whitman being grabbed from Houston, and all with favorable records.

But three outfielders were needed to fill out the Yankee staff. Six infielders and two receivers comprised the picking from the leagues of smaller caliber. Out of these seventeen recruits Chance should put a team on the field that will compete with the best of them, while the blame will fall upon him should the Yanks do poorly this season.

It was Chance's ambition to land ahead of the Browns the season past, but in glancing over the records made by the recruits he should go a step higher, landing above the Tigers, who are expected to have none too good a season, their pitching staff being way off stride, while Willett, in joining the Feds, was a severe shock to Jennings' crew.

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Spokane Team Complete.
Manager Friel of the St. Paul A. club is having little difficulty in fathoming in the field his athletes. He only bid out to date is Charley Hall, who was tinned from the Boston Red Sox.

PACIFIC COAST HAD 'OUTLAW' BALL ONCE

"Angel" of Portland Club Recalls the Turbulent Days of 1902.

While Portland generally seems to be in league with the Federals, though far removed from the seat of war, there is in this city, a certain group of prominent business men who have a wholesome dislike for the Federal league and all it stands for, says the Portland Oregonian. That feeling comes about through active association with "outlaw" baseball, and it is not hatred, but sympathy which they bear for the new organization.

Max Fleischer, who backed the Portland team of 1902, which was a member of the Pacific coast "outlaw" league, is just one of them. There are several more who share his spirit.

"Imagine being a director of a club when you went to bed at night and woke up the next morning and found that half your club was gone. That was just one of the few interesting experiences which we had in keeping Portland on the baseball map in 1902," said Mr. Fleischer with a sigh, as he thought of the strenuous days of twelve years ago.

Strife Is Recalled.
"It was right and keep on fighting," it started when Portland withdrew from the original Pacific Northwest league, headed by Lucas.

"Hank Harris, then the principal owner of the San Francisco team, had been up in an attempt to reach an understanding between Portland and the California State league, then the big thing on the south coast."

"In 1903 Portland succeeded from the league, and tried to take Seattle with it. Jack Marshall, then secretary of the Portland club, was sent north to see Dugdale and attempt to have him change his allegiance from the Northwest to the California."

"Dugdale was not so much in it, and he went over to the California State and made the Pacific coast league. Lucas and his crowd were immediately up in arms. The Seattle Coast league put a team in the city and Lucas came all the way down the coast."

That's all ancient history, but the starting times which followed and the money we kept sinking in that team and league will never be forgotten, and we make the base for our aversion to anything which sounds like "outlaw" baseball.

Success Means End of War.
"Of course if the Federal league is a success it will probably become a part of organized baseball. If it did not, the fight would be nothing but war in the end bring the downfall of the game."

While the Federal league seems to be well fortified with its contract, the Portland team of the "outlaw" league of the past was not so successful. One of the first setbacks was the fact that Portland had a team and the next day half of the men were gone to another club.

Time and time again, Portland would advance the transportation to the player back to the city. Usually had a player back to the city. Usually had a player back to the city. Usually had a player back to the city.

Every cent of the proceeds after the house and other necessary expenses are paid will be turned over to the finance committee of the ball team.

When the proposition to stage a twenty-round bout for the benefit of the ball team was broached, Joe Smith, who is the prime mover in the affair, really felt in with the plan. Every cent of the proceeds after the house and other necessary expenses are paid will be turned over to the finance committee of the ball team.

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Charles Weegham, Robert Ward and James Gilmore Now Well Known.

Special to The Tribune.
NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—There's a little business that needs advertising to keep it a success. Your advertising for some free advertising your aforementioned little business.

Yes! Well, then, become a league magnate. It's the greatest gratis publicity getter that has been covered since the whale was Jonah.

Charles Weegman owns a twenty restaurants in Chicago. He became a baseball mogul in 1902, when he's been doing as much as that there's almost a riot among persons who want to get different food dispensaries so that later may boast to posterity that they ate some of Weegman's apples, once they slipped some cold ones on them, they even talk in terms of, too, mind you, of his waiters.

Since Weegman became a magnate twenty new points of view have come to light in the Illinois Persons visiting there nowadays some of Chicago's historic spots they're too busy giving the up and to Weegman's different restaurants.

"Tip-Top" Ward.
Take the case of Robert B. Ward, bakery person, of New York. Ward manufactures a brand of bread called "Tip-Top." For a number of years he has been spending a considerable amount of money in telling through the advertising medium, please accept his bread.

But Mr. Ward isn't going to much money in advertising. He doesn't Mr. Ward own a Federal ball team that will inhabit during certain portions of the summer, and will visit several other at odd times during the same. And won't the team be called "Tip-tops"? And won't people who are called that? And won't be told that it's because Ward, er, is a baker, and that he bakes "tip-top" bread—the bread that will top feel like a king?

Gilmore's Rise.
And then there's Jimmy Gilmore, affable prey of the Federal league. He is in the ventilating business. Since he's jumped into the business his ventilating products gotten more free advertising in the papers, and he's a success. Otto Stiefel owns the St. Louis league franchise. Otto also owns a brewery stock. St. Louis always Otto's beer was pretty good stuff, didn't go wild over it—that is, Otto became a magnate. Now for the privilege of drinking beer.

Also in the ranks of the league moguls, assistant moguls, vicars, presidents, consultants, angels, et cetera, there are a lot of men who are engaged in the selling of coal, oysters, ice, eggs, and sundry other of life's necessities. And every one has been a mighty large portion of free advertising that has brought increased sales, and, of course, greatly increased income.

"Dat's de Gent."
Edward E. Gates, chief counsel of the Federal league, has a reputation as a mighty lawyer. He is a diamond, his home town, is ever heard of him outside of his up to three months ago! He is there now, when the name Ward E. Gates is mentioned, doesn't immediately know who the lawyer who jumped into the league was, and he's a success. Former Judge Harry Goldman, other of the Federals' legal aid, Judge Goldman for many years enjoyed an enviable reputation in his home town, but since came into the league with the Federals, especially since the Federals the high road to prosperity. Goldman has become the town lawyer. As he passes along the street the kids look at him in awe.

"Dat's de Gent," he'll be told, "give me a tip-top, a large club, a Horray for him!"

And the demand for Judge Goldman's services as an attorney has grown such proportions in the last month it seems the only way he'll be able to meet it is to forsake sleep and sit out the legal tangles of his clients and in collecting his fees there.